

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 24

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith EXCERPTS FROM TEXT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S THIRD PRESS CONFERENCE MADE IN THE ROSE GARDEN AT THE WHITE HOUSE AT 2:31 P.M. EDT WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9.

2. THE PRESIDENT: I DO HAVE ONE BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENT. I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THIS AFTERNOON THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA OF MEXICO AND I HAVE AGREED TO HOLD A MEETING ON THE U.S.-MEXICAN BORDER ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 21.

3. I AM VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA IN THE NOGALES AREA, AND WE PLAN TO VISIT BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER. THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO HAVE A LONG TRADITION OF FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS. IT IS MY HOPE THAT OUR MEETING WILL CONTRIBUTE TO MAINTAINING THAT RELATIONSHIP AND TO STRENGTHEN THE GOOD WILL BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES OVER THE YEARS TO COME.

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4. AT THIS MEETING, WE WILL DISCUSS, OBVIOUSLY, A WIDE

RANGE OF SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO BOTH COUNTRIES.

5. ONE OF THE FIRST RESPONSES TO OUR WIN PROGRAM YESTERDAY

WAS JOHN OSBORNE'S SIGNING UP, AND I HAVE HIS APPLICATION
RIGHT HERE. THANK YOU, JOHN.

6. QUESTION: I AM SURE YOU HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS ON ECO-
NOMICS, BUT LET ME ASK ONE ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.
THERE ARE REPORTS THAT YOU ARE PLANNING SOME SORT OF
SUMMIT CONFERENCE WITH CHAIRMAN BREZHNEV OF THE SOVIET
UNION.

7. CAN YOU GIVE US SOME DETAILS ON THAT?

8. THE PRESIDENT: WHEN I TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE, I
INDICATED I WOULD CONTINUE OUR COUNTRY'S EFFORTS TO BROAD-
EN AND EXPAND THE POLICIES OF DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET
UNION.

9. SINCE I HAVE BEEN IN OFFICE, I HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF
DISCUSSIONS WITH RESPONSIBLE LEADERS IN THE SOVIET UNION.
ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO, I MET WITH THEIR FOREIGN MINISTER,
MR. GROMYKO.

10. DR. KISSINGER IS GOING TO THE SOVIET UNION THE
LATTER PART OF THIS MONTH TO CONTINUE THESE DISCUSSIONS.

11. NOW, AS YOU WELL KNOW, MR. BREZHNEV HAS BEEN
INVITED TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1975. IF THERE IS
A REASON FOR US TO MEET BEFORE THAT MEETING IN THE UNITED
STATES, I WILL CERTAINLY CONSIDER IT.

12. QUESTION: TO FOLLOW UP A LITTLE, DO YOU EXPECT THE
UNITED STATES TO HAVE ANY KIND OF A PROPOSAL ON ARMS
TO PRESENT TO THE SOVIET UNION BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR?

13. THE PRESIDENT: WE ARE RESOLVING OUR POSITION IN THIS
VERY IMPORTANT AND VERY CRITICAL AREA. WHEN DR. KISSINGER
GOES TO THE SOVIET UNION THE LATTER PART OF THIS MONTH, WE
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WILL HAVE SOME GUIDELINES, SOME SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR
HIM TO DISCUSS IN A PRELIMINARY WAY WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

14. QUESTION: MR. PRESIDENT, HAVE YOU INQUIRED INTO
THE MATTER OF GIFTS BY GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER, AND
IF SO, THERE IS A QUESTION OF POSSIBLE IMPROPRIETY OCCUR
IN ANY INSTANCE, IN YOUR JUDGMENT?

15. THE PRESIDENT: THE GIFTS BY GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER TO THE THREE INDIVIDUALS THAT I AM FAMILIAR WITH -- I HAVE LOOKED INTO THE ONE THAT INVOLVED DR. KISSINGER -- BUT I THINK TO PUT THIS IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE YOU HAVE TO

RECOGNIZE THAT GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER IS A VERY, VERY WEALTHY MAN, AND THAT HE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY GENEROUS WITH MANY, MANY CHARITIES OVER A GOOD MANY YEARS, AND HE OBVIOUSLY HAS SOUGHT TO COMPENSATE FORMER EMPLOYEES OR FRIENDS FOR WHATEVER SERVICES THEY PERFORMED.

16. IN THE CASE OF DR. KISSINGER, I HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT EVERY TAX THAT COULD BE APPLIED HAS BEEN PAID, AND THAT ALL LEGAL PROBLEMS INVOLVING THAT PARTICULAR CASE WERE SOLVED SATISFACTORILY. UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, I DO NOT THINK THERE WAS ANY IMPROPRIETY IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DR. KISSINGER AND FORMER GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER.

17. QUESTION: MR. PRESIDENT, IN YOUR RECENT UN SPEECH, YOU ADDED SOME LAST-MINUTE REMARKS PRAISING SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER, AND LAST NIGHT YOU MADE AN EXTRAORDINARY MOVE OF GOING OUT TO ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE TO SEE HIM OFF ON HIS TRIP ABROAD.

18. ARE YOU UPSET BY THE CRITICISM THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER IS RECEIVING FROM THE PRESS, THE PUBLIC AND CONGRESS?

19. THE PRESIDENT: I WOULD PUT IT THIS WAY, MR. JONES. I AM VERY FOND OF DR. KISSINGER ON A PERSONAL BASIS. I HAVE TREMENDOUS RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR THE SUPERB JOB THAT HE HAS DONE SINCE HE HAS BEEN THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY (COUNCIL) AND ALSO AS SECRETARY OF STATE.

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20. I THINK WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD, WHAT HE IS CONTINUING TO DO FOR PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, DESERVES WHATEVER GOOD AND APPROPRIATE THINGS I CAN SAY ABOUT HIM AND WHATEVER LITTLE EXTRA EFFORTS I CAN MAKE TO SHOW MY APPRECIATION. AND I INTEND TO CONTINUE TO DO IT.

21. YES.

22. QUESTION: SIR, DO YOU FEEL THAT HIS EFFECTIVENESS IS BEING UNDERMINED BY THIS CRITICISM?

23. THE PRESIDENT: I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY ADVERSE EFFECTS SO FAR. WE ARE MAKING HEADWAY AND I THINK CONSTRUCTIVELY IN ALL OF THE AREAS WHERE I THINK AND HE THINKS IT IS

IMPORTANT FOR US TO DO THINGS TO PRESERVE PEACE AND BUILD
A BROADER BASE FOR PEACE. INGERSOLL

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